

THE HEADLIGHT.

—BY THE—
SOUTHWESTERN PUBLISHING CO.
E. MENDIOLA, Editor.

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The bill for the admission of Wyoming is now "undisputed business" on the Senate calendar. It will probably remain such to the end of the session.

The south bound Santa Fe passenger train of Monday last had a very narrow escape from a disastrous wreck in a burning bridge, 18 miles west of Las Vegas.

Latest advices from Santa Fe are that Gov. Prince is recovering from his recent illness, and is now so as to be about, but not sufficiently recovered to attend actively to business.

The reconvening of the Constitutional Convention to recall their Constitution for the purpose of correcting some of its "defects," after having submitted it to a vote of the people, is a good deal like swapping horses in the middle of the stream.

The performance of a lot of the members of the late Constitutional Convention "endorsing" their own work and making it a party issue, as they did at the late meeting of the managing committee of their party, is a good deal like that of Blind Tom, the negro pianist, in regularly "clapping" himself after his performance of a piece of music.

The proposition to re-assemble the late Constitutional Convention for the purpose of "correcting some of the imperfections" of their work of last September, will open the eyes of a good many people in regard to the bores' job of a Constitution they are asked to endorse at the November election.

Secretary Blaine is reported as greatly dissatisfied with the action of his partisan friends in the House on the tariff. He argues, and with much evident force, that the cotton planters of the South, the wheat growers of the North, and even the maple sugar makers of Vermont, are quite as much entitled to a bounty on their products as are the sugar producers of Louisiana and Kansas.

When the state constitution comes before the people look out for more corn, shoes and cheap calico. That is what the intelligent and progressive American voter will have to face. Corn, real estate, money, shoes, and calico will win if the constitution is adopted. Gentlemen, "take it lower," and let us have the facts in the case. Everything votes in this election except sheep. We want them to vote, but only in Valencia county. (Kingston Hall.)

The shaft man evidently knows the people he is talking about.

Speaking of the call for the re-assembling of the Constitutional Convention, the Albuquerque Citizen (Republican) says "any imperfections in the proposed state constitution can be remedied at that time." The discussion of that instrument during the past eight months seems to have developed some "imperfections" in what the public has been persistently assured was such a "model constitution."

Col. J. Francisco Chavez, president of the late Constitutional Convention, has issued a call for the re-assembling of that Convention at Santa Fe on the 18th of August next. They forgot something when the convention was in session, and this side meeting is for the purpose of "fixing it up." The best and most sensible thing they can do to recall and undo the work of that convention and try it over again. After the lying they have been getting from press and people during the past eight months, they might do better.

That the administration is squarely against free coinage of silver is now demonstrated, and that Harrison will veto any bill that may finally pass containing that provision, is also her probable. A Senator gave the information a few days ago that Secretary Windom was told that the senate was likely to adopt the free coinage section when a final vote should be reached on the silver bill, and at once began an active personal campaign to head off the silver senators. The president had joined Mr. Windom in his work, and it is said that the real reason why the final vote on the bill was postponed for a few days was to give the friends of the administration time to make their influence felt.

STATE RIGHTS AND PROTECTION.

A distinguished Republican judge in Pennsylvania the other day declared that he would not regard the opinion of the supreme court of the United States in the celebrated "original package" case, for the reason that it was an invasion of the rights of the states. Yappings outgivings have been made at sundry times and places and by sundry people, to the same purpose, and what seems somewhat extraordinary, is the sudden profession of a heretofore much decided doctrine—the old Democratic doctrine of state rights—by men who never before in their entire lives, gave that doctrine a serious thought except to couple it with secession and denounce it as treason.

All this makes it apparent that this sudden abdication of devotion to a basic democratic theory in opposition to so-called Centralism, is but a specious pretext called in to do service in behalf of a pretense to which those making this use of the fundamental doctrine of state rights are much more strongly wedded than to the doctrine they now quote. As a rule they are the most extreme and unscrupulous of prohibitionists, who have insisted for years that the Federal government should enact prohibition, and establish a theory of administration the only logical conclusion of which would be the most absolute centralized despotism the world has ever seen—the right of the government to take jurisdiction of the personal habits of the individual in the States.

This is largely the secret of much of the excessive indignation against the "original package" decision.

On the other hand, those who are supposed to be benefitted by it in the conduct of their business, are equally wrong in their interpretation of the decision, and equally censurable for their abominable technical use and evasion of the term "original package."

The states having in the adoption of the Constitution surrendered absolutely and unconditionally, and for the general public peace and welfare, the power they had theretofore possessed over interstate commerce, that function thereupon ceased to be one of the rights of the states, and the decision is therefore in no sense or degree an infringement of any right of any state.

The states did not, however, surrender the right to regulate commerce between its own citizens. So that any citizen of any state may freely purchase an article of commerce from any citizen of any other state, and there is no power in the state in which he resides to step in and say that he shall not be permitted to receive that article, and keep it, or make such personal use of it as he may please, except to put it upon the market and sell it. It then becomes an article of local or state trade, and there comes in at least the regulative power of the state over local trade—a power it never surrendered to the Federal Government, as it did its power over trade between its constituent states. At that point the doctrine of state rights steps in and may be legitimately asserted.

The "original package" decision thus becomes logical and consistent. It is in no sense subversive of the Constitutional theory of state rights, but rather becomes in reality an intelligent and forceful limitation of that doctrine, and moreover, while by implication recognizing the power of the state under certain conditions to enact prohibition, it yet extends the protection of the Union and its laws over the citizen of even a prohibition state to be enjoyment of his natural and Constitutional right to the regulation of his personal habits.

That decision is at once a check to the unreasonable subjection of the citizen to the state, and a declaration of the rights of the states to the largest limits guaranteed by the national compact.

WE DRAW THE LINE.

The Denver Times accuses the editor of the HEADLIGHT of being a fraud and an idiot—the Mexican calls him a hoodler and a Monmouth, and the Las Vegas Optic in very sure that he is a drunk, with several districts yet to be won.

There is one thing, however, they do not say—i. e., that he is a fool and supports the Santa Fe Constitution. Take notice that we draw the line there.

THE SENATE FOR FREE COINAGE.

The following is substantially the text of the silver bill passed by the House two weeks ago, as amended and passed by the Senate last Tuesday:

Section one provides that from and after the date of the passage of the act the unit of value in the United States shall be the dollar. This may be coined of 412 1/2 grains of standard silver or 23 1/4 grains of standard gold. Said coins to be equally legal tender for debts, public or private. Any owner of silver or gold coin may deposit it in any mint of the United States to be formed into standard dollars or bars for his benefit without charge, but it shall be lawful to refuse any deposit of less value than \$100 or any bullion so base as to be unsuitable for operations of the mint.

Section two provides that sections three of the act of February 24, 1876, is made applicable to the change provided by this act.

Section three, that certificates provided for and all silver and gold certificates already issued shall be of a denomination of not less than ten or more than \$100, and be redeemable in coin of standard value. The provisions of the act of February 25, 1876, requiring the Secretary of the Treasury to purchase at market price not less than two nor more than four million dollars worth of silver bullion per month, is repealed.

Section four sets forth that the certificates provided for in the act, and all gold and silver certificates already issued shall be receivable for all taxes and dues to the United States of every description, and shall be legal tender for the payment of all debts, public or private.

Section five provides that owners of bullion deposited for coinage shall have the option to receive coin or its equivalent in certificates provided for in the act, and such bullion shall be subsequently coined.

Section six provides for covering into the treasury funds held for the redemption of national bank circulation.

The vote was ayes 42, nays 24, divided as follows:

Democrats voting for the bill—Bate, Berry, Blodgett, Butler, Call, Cookrell, Coke, Colquhoun, Daniel, Eustis, George, Gorman, Harris, Jones of Ark., Kenna, Morgan, Pasco, Payne, Pugh, Ransom, Reardon, Purdie, Vance, Vest, Voorhees, Walcott—16.

Democrats voting against the bill—Gray, McPherson and Wilson—3.

Republicans voting for the bill—Cameron, Hearst, Lusk, Jones of Nevada, Manderson, Mitchell, Moody, Paddock, Pierce, Plumb, Power, Sanders, Squires, Stewart, Teller and Wolcott—16.

Republicans voting against the bill—Aldrich, Allen, Allison, Blair, Casey, Chandler, Callum, Dawes, Edmunds, Evans, Frye, Hale, Hawley, Hisecock, Hoar, Morrill, Platt, Sawyer, Sherman, Spooner, Stockbridge and Washburn—22.

Seven western Republicans voted against the bill, but not a western or southern Democrat, and only three from the east.

There seems scarcely a possibility that the House will permit this bill to pass in anything like the shape in which the Senate has passed it. It would be too good a thing to hope for. It is a complete reversal of the spirit and intent of the original bill. That was a bill to demonetize silver—this is a bill to more effectively monetize it than ever before since the demonetizing act of 1873.

It is certain however, to force the free coinage issue in the House, and in such a way that no western member will be permitted to plead "rules" or "caucus" dictation as a shield to protect him from the indignation of his constituents in voting otherwise than squarely on and for the issue presented in the Senate substitute.

It is to be hoped that the senate will insist upon its amendments, even to the defeat of all legislation on the subject, for no legislation will be better than the House bill.

A Washington special to the Herald says:

While nine-tenths of the members of the house of representatives are expected to fight over the question of the reference of the silver bill today, the bill is reported early to the custody of the committee on coinage weights and measures and no one knows when it will be reported. As the committee is said to be unfavorable to the measure it may be presumed that the bill will not be reported in a hurry. The speaker, under one of the new rules quickly referred the bill without laying it before the house. Had it been laid before the house yesterday and declared that free coinage would carry.

The Boston Herald, one of the ablest and most conservative newspapers of the country, says that the democratic majority in the next congress will be large—very likely running up to 50 votes.

Northeastern money lenders are establishing agencies all through the South to place money on farm mortgages. The Republic suggests that southern farmers will find it cheaper to turn over their farms at the start, get a quitclaim and lend the money to some one else at half the rate of interest charged them by these usurers.

According to one of the Washington correspondents, Senator Quay received many cordial greetings from his fellow senators when he took his seat in the chamber soon after the opening of last year's session, and he was overwhelmed with callers at his home last night—the night after the dinner at which he received the endorsement of the Republican Executive Committee. The Republic suggests that if Mr. Quay could only think of some other scheme to perpetuate he would stand a good chance of being the Republican nominee for President in 1902.

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A DANGEROUS SCHEME.

The last number of the Silver City Sentinel has an excellent editorial on Postmaster General Wamamaker's absurd and dangerous proposition for the purchase by the General Government of all the telegraph lines of country for the purpose of establishing a Federal postal system. Among other conclusive arguments against the scheme, the Sentinel says:

The expense attending its operation would be an enormous strain upon the resources of the nation. The losses would far exceed the profits, and the very taxpayers who would be compelled to put up for the enterprise to a great extent, are the ones who would reap the least benefit. Take for example the farmers, they have comparatively little use for the telegraphic wires, while the speculator and the great mass of non-producers would be continual patrons. Again, an army of officials, operators, linemen and workmen of various grades would be necessary to keep the great scheme in motion. This immense army, of course, would be composed of government men, ready to do the bidding and work for the party in power. Whatever was claimed to be in power when Wamamaker's pet measure should be perfected, no influence under the sun could root it out. With the one hundred and odd thousand government wards already provided for and the telegraphic wires will be in power when Wamamaker's pet measure should be perfected, no influence under the sun could root it out. With the one hundred and odd thousand government wards already provided for and the telegraphic wires will be in power when Wamamaker's pet measure should be perfected, no influence under the sun could root it out.

In urging that the Democrats give particular attention to the election of members of the Legislature, this year, there is no wish or intention to diminish the importance of electing a Democratic delegate in Congress, or of Democratic county officials. The Republicans will make special effort for the election of their Congressional candidate this year, as they hope to secure admission under the Santa Fe Constitution in case of success, and to that end will trade votes on every thing else. Mr. Joseph will undoubtedly be the Democratic candidate again. All that is necessary to his success is the straight Democratic vote of the Territory. If there is no swapping of votes his election is certain. Votes for Joseph and the Democratic nominees for the Legislature, and against the Santa Fe Constitution, naturally and logically go together. Let no wiles or intrigues of Republican ward workers separate them.

The Senate of the United States is evidently more interested in what people may drink than what they may eat. When the bill to exempt intoxicating liquors from the action of the interstate commerce clause of the constitution was under consideration, Senator Vest attempted to have a proviso inserted regarding dressed beef so as to make effective the inspection laws passed by several of the states. The senate promptly voted it down. The states may legislate against the sale of liquor but not against that of dressed beef. (Socorro Advertiser.)

When the penitentiary was reopened up and the institution fumigated, the Sun will publish the figures to show that almost all the income of that institution, if not every single dollar of it, has come from the sale of brick and other materials made under the Democratic administration. This will show how completely fraudulent, and hence foolish, the boast of the New Mexican is, when it talks about the earnings under Republican management during the past year being \$2,000. Talk about facts, Sergeant, or somebody will catch you in your lies and expose you. (Santa Fe Sun.)

The time is approaching for the fall campaign in New Mexico. The Democratic should be getting their harness on. Organization should at once begin throughout the entire territory, and it should be thorough as well as wide extended. The mistake must not be made, as in former years, of subordinating everything to the election of the delegate. The main effort must be made for the legislature. The election of delegate is good and should not be neglected, but the election of the legislature is better and must be secured by all means. Let this be the object of the democrats put before them in every county, and let nothing call them from it. (Alb. Press.)

The New Mexican now claims that this Territory will be admitted as a state next year. This is somewhat of a bust, down from its positive assertions that we would be admitted this congress. We would not object to statehood next year if the legislature this winter will pass a respectable school law and give us a chance to get up a good and fair constitution. (Socorro Advertiser.)

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